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Practitioner's Docket No. 2104US

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Name: Deborah H. Spencer

Signature: *Deborah H. Spencer*

Date: July 20, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Ioana Popa-Burke et al.

Application No.: 10/008,348

Filed: 08 November 2001

For: Sample Preparation System and Associated Apparatuses and Method

Group No.: 1743

Examiner: Y. G. Gakh

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 20, 2004

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

This is a restriction election in response to the Office Action dated 21 June 2004 requiring restriction of the claims.

I. Restriction Election

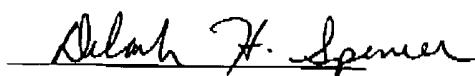
The Examiner has required restriction between Group I (Claims 1-15 and 42-54), Group II (Claims 16-24 and 55), and Group III (Claims 26-41).

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group III (Claims 26-41) drawn to a high throughput method for preparing a profiling sample. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications or take other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims without prejudice thereon.

Applicants submit that the case is in condition for prosecution and such action is

respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains unresolved, Applicants' agent welcomes the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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